AN EXTRACT OF SEVERAL LETTERS

Relating to the GREAT

Charity and Uſefulneſs

OF PRINTING the

New Teſtament and *Pſalter*

IN THE

Arabick Language;

For the Benefit of the Poor Chriſtians in *Paleſtine*, *Syria*, *Meſopotamia*, *Arabia*, *Egypt*, and other *Eaſtern* Countries.

WITH A

PROPOSAL

For Executing ſo Good an Undertaking.

LONDON,

Printed by J. DOWNING, in *Bartholomew-Cloſe* near *Weſt-Smithfield*, 1725.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

44.
11. 20.
100.

WE whoſe Names are underwritten, being ſincerely deſirous to preſerve and propagate the Chriſtian Faith among our Brethren in *Syria*, *Paleſtine*, *Arabia*, and other Eaſtern Countries from whence We firſt received it; in which Parts (being under the *Turkiſh* Dominion) the Uſe of Printing is not allow'd; and believing that the Publiſhing of the *New Teſtament* in *Arabick* is the moſt proper and effectual Means of anſwering ſo good an End, have thought our ſelves obliged to encourage an Impreſſion thereof; And therefore We do earneſtly recommend it to the Clergy, and other

well-disposed Persons in Our respective Dioceses, to promote so useful and pious an Undertaking.

W. Cant.
Lan. Ebor.
Edm' London'
W. Duresme.
R. Winchester.
J. Asaph.
Jo. Oxford.
B. Sarum.
E. Cov. & Lich.
Sa. Roffen.
Wh Peterbor.
Tho. Ely.
R. Lincoln'
Jos. Glocester.
W. Bangor.
Jo. Carliol.
Jo. Norwich.
H. Hereford.
Ric. St. David's.
Edw. Chichester.
Wm Bristol.
Steph. Exon.
Rob. Landaff.

May 1725.

AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER

From Mr. Salomon Negri, *Native of* Damaſcus *in* Syria, *dated* March 28. 1720. *To a Member of the Society at* London *for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

AS you was pleaſed to deſire me to communicate my Thoughts concerning the Neceſſity and Uſefulneſs of a new Edition of the New Teſtament in *Arabick*, for the Uſe of the *Eaſtern* Churches, and to ſet down in Writing ſome of my Reaſons on that Head, I have endeavoured to ſatisfie

you herein to the beſt of my Power, as far as the narrow Limits of a Letter would permit.

THERE are ſeveral Conſiderations which clearly ſhew the Neceſſity of ſuch a pious Undertaking.

Firſt, The Want of Printing Preſſes in the *Eaſtern* Countries, makes Books very ſcarce and dear, much beyond what the poor Chriſtians can afford to purchaſe them at, having much ado to pay the Tributes and Impoſitions laid on them by the Government they live under, and to ſupply the common Neceſſaries of Life; ſo that there are but very few in a Condition to buy Books, for their Inſtruction and ſpiritual Improvement.

Secondly, The few Printed Copies ſtill extant, either of the whole New Teſtament, or of Part of it, are very hard to be got, and thoſe alſo at a dear Rate. The Four Evangeliſts Printed in Folio at *Rome*, *Anno* 1591. with a *Latin* Tranſlation interlined and Cuts, is the moſt beautiful Edition, as well as the moſt correct, but is ſo ſcarce, that it is ſold at an exorbitant Price: An Edition of the whole Bible, Printed at *Rome* by Order of the Congregation *de Propaganda Fide*, in 3 Vol. Folio, 1671. may be had indeed; but as it was made from the Vulgar Tranſlation by the *Maronites*, (a People little verſed in the true Knowledge of the *Arabick* Language) all underſtanding Men among the *Eaſtern* Nations have rejected it; beſides, this Edition is diſtributed only among thoſe of the

Romiſh

Romiſh Communion, and is therefore ſent by the Congregation from *Rome*, to their Miſſionaries in the *Levant*. The Edition of *Erpenius*, which takes in the whole New Teſtament, is not only very faulty, but ſuſpected not to have been Printed from a Copy generally approv'd; and as very few even of theſe were at firſt Printed, they are become very ſcarce. The beautiful Edition of *London*, extant in the Polyglot Bible, cannot be of common Uſe, by Reaſon of the Bulk, and extraordinary Price. Several Parts of the New Teſtament have been Printed ſeparately in different Countries of *Europe*, but they can be of no great Uſe to the *Eaſtern* Nations, becauſe, beſides their being incompleat, very few Copies have reached them, except a ſmall Number in the Hands of the *Romiſh* Miſſionaries.

If we therefore conſider that the Conſtitution of the Country allows of no Printing, and that the neceſſitous and diſtreſſed Condition of the Chriſtians does not permit them to purchaſe any Copies of thoſe Editions now extant, which are ſcarce, dear, too large, or otherwiſe faulty and inconvenient; and the little Succeſs the two Editions at *Rome* have had, the *firſt*, by Reaſon of the Cuts and Figures therein, which the *Eaſtern* Nations have an Averſion to; and the *ſecond*, by Reaſon of the Badneſs of the Impreſſion, and the Meanneſs of the Language, (being even indecent in ſome Places) it will abundantly appear, that there is a Neceſſity of an

Edition more exact and faithful, as well as more commodious in Reſpect of Size.

The Neceſſity and Uſefulneſs of ſo laudable a Deſign will further appear, if we conſider the Language in which the Edition is propoſed to be publiſhed, the Extent of the Country in which it is ſpoke, and the many Nations and People who may by this Means have the Opportunity of Reading the Holy Scriptures, and thereby of reaping great Benefit to their Souls.

The Excellency of the *Arabick* Language is undoubted, in what Light ſoever you will be pleaſed to conſider it: As this is the Language the *Alcoran* is writ in, it extends to all thoſe Countries where the *Mahometan Religion* is profeſſed, and even beyond thoſe Countries, among many of the Heathen. It is the common Language of the greateſt Part of *Africa*, of a conſiderable Part of *Aſia*; and in the *Turkiſh* Dominions, where it is not generally ſpoke, it is nevertheleſs taught in the Schools, and ſtudied by Men of Letters, as *Latin* is in *Europe*, where alſo it is read in ſeveral Univerſities.

But to fix ſome Limits for the Proſecution of this Deſign, which is chiefly intended for Poor Chriſtians deſtitute of Books, neceſſary for their ſpiritual Edification: I'll only mention thoſe Countries where the greateſt Number of Chriſtians are ſettled: namely, *Paleſtine*, *Syria*, *Meſopotamia*, *Arabia*, and *Egypt*. In all theſe Countries there are great Numbers and Communities of Chriſtians, to whom

ſuch

ſuch an Edition will be uſeful: As for Inſtance, the *Arabians* of the *Greek* Church, commonly called *Melchites*, who being ſuperiour in Number to all the reſt, ought principally to be regarded: Likewiſe the *Syrians* or *Eutychians*, the *Neſtorians*, *Maronites*, *Armenians*, *Copts*, and even a ſmall Remnant of the ancient *Nazarens*. All theſe Nations and diſtinct Denominations of Chriſtians, though they celebrate their Liturgy in the Language commonly uſed by their reſpective Churches, yet they generally underſtand, ſpeak, and write *Arabick*.

You may eaſily judge by this, SIR, how uſeful a better Edition of the *Arabick* New Teſtament would be, eſpecially if it were accompanied with the Pſalter, what happy Effects, by the Bleſſing of GOD, it might produce among thoſe ſeveral Nations, and how readily it would be received by them.

I ſhould now go on to give you my Thoughts as to the Execution of this Deſign, how it might be order'd in a manner that may anſwer the pious Intention of thoſe, who, out of a Chriſtian Zeal, would be willing to undertake and encourage this Work, and effectually promote the ſpiritual Good of thoſe for whom it is intended; and likewiſe as to the Choice of the Copy from which ſuch a new Impreſſion may be made, the Characters and Letters, and Form of the Volume, and other Particulars relating to the Accompliſhment thereof: But I thought it would be Time enough to enter on a further detail of Particulars when you ſhall have acquainted me that it has

has pleaſed GOD to diſpoſe your Society to come to a Reſolution in Favour of ſo good an Undertaking.

Give me Leave only, for the preſent, to ſuggeſt, in a few Words, my Thoughts as to the Manner of ſecurely diſperſing the Copies among ſo many Nations, which I think was one of the Difficulties you ſtarted to me: The beſt Method, in my humble Opinion, would be, to reſerve Part of the Edition in *London*, as ſhall be thought fit, and to ſend from Time to Time a Number of Copies bound, with a ſuitable Recommendation, to the *Engliſh* Conſul at *Aleppo*, (which of all Cities is the beſt ſituated for this Purpoſe) who, with the Aſſiſtance of the Chaplain, might eaſily order and regulate the diſperſing of them: The Chaplain will readily charge himſelf with a Commiſſion ſo agreeable to his own Character, and ſo charitable, honourable, and glorious to the *Britiſh* Nation: He will be the more diſpoſed to undertake this Work, having, as I have been inform'd, deſign'd to make himſelf Maſter of the *Arabick*, whereby he will have the Opportunity of converſing and correſponding with Perſons of all Ranks: Inſtructions accordingly may be ſent him from hence to make himſelf known to the Patriarchs of *Jeruſalem*, *Antioch*, and *Alexandria*; the Patriarch of the *Neſtorians*, who reſides at *Nineveh*; and the Patriarch of the *Copts*, at *Grand-Cairo*; and to furniſh them with a ſufficient Number of Copies, anſwerable to the Extent of their reſpective Patriarchates; and to communicate to thoſe Prelates, as likewiſe to the Archbiſhop of

Aleppo,

Aleppo, the Intention of the Benefactors in *England*, and recommend to them the distributing of the said Copies.

My hearty Prayers are, that GOD would be pleas'd to incline the Rich and Charitable of this Kingdom, to take such Resolutions in this important Affair, as may most effectually promote his Honour and Glory, and the Good and Welfare of our Fellow-Christians.

I remain, SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

Salomon Negri.

Extract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. William Ayerst, *Chaplain to his Excellency Sir* Robert Sutton, *late Ambassador from his Majesty to the* Ottoman Porte, *dated* April 27. 1720. *To a Member of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.*

SIR,

SIR *Robert Sutton* received your Letter, with the inclosed Proposal relating to the *Arabick* Testament, which he has order'd me to tell you, he looks upon as a Thing which may do a great deal of Good in the *Eastern* Countries; and is of Opinion, that the *Turks* will not hinder its being dispersed.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from the Reverend and Learned Dr. Humphrey Prideaux, *Dean of* Norwich, *to his Grace the Lord Archbiſhop of* Canterbury, *dated* May 20. 1720.

My Lord,

THE *Arabick* Language is ſpoken not only in *Arabia*, but alſo through all *Meſopotamia*, *Erac*, *Syria*, *Paleſtine*, and *Egypt*; and from *Egypt* on all the Northern Coaſts of *Africa*, as far as *Fez*, *Morocco*, and the *Atlantick* Ocean.

In *Arabia*, and all the *Northern* Coaſts of *Africa*, there are not any Chriſtians, except ſuch Slaves as have been taken Captive by the Corſairs, to whom an *Arabick* New Teſtament can be of no Uſe, the *Arabick* not being their Language.

In *Erac*, *Meſopotamia*, *Syria*, *Paleſtine*, and *Egypt*, there are ſtill remaining ſeveral Inhabitants of the Chriſtian Religion, divided into the ſeveral Sects of *Neſtorians*, *Eutychians*, *Monothelites*, and *Melchites*, to whom an *Arabick* New Teſtament would be of great Uſe, and it would be a Work of great Charity to furniſh them with it; for there being no Printing in thoſe Parts, all the Copies that they have there of the Bible are in Manuſcript, which being very dear, and private Chriſtians being there under the Oppreſſion of *Mahometan* Governments, very poor, few of them have

have wherewith to purchaſe any of thoſe Copies; and therefore moſt of them are without the Scriptures, and know no further thereof than what they hear read in their publick Aſſemblies.

That *Arabick* Verſion of the New Teſtament, which is publiſhed in the *London* Polyglott, is the propereſt for this Purpoſe; but whether there be a Font of *Arabick* Letters in *England* fit for this Work, is more than I know, but I think there is not; and if ſo, there muſt then be a new Font caſt, and new Punchions and Matrices muſt be made for it, which will much augment the Charge; but if this Work goes on, and there be a Neceſſity for ſuch a new Font, Care muſt be had, that the Pattern be taken from the faireſt Characters: For thoſe that uſe the *Arabick* Language in the *Eaſt*, are very nice in their Writing; and thoſe Books from our *Weſtern* Preſſes, which in their Types come neareſt to their faireſt Writing, are moſt acceptable to them: And the *Roman Arabick* Pſalter being on this Account approved by them beyond all their Prints, I have therefore herewith ſent it to your Grace, to be uſed as there ſhall be Occaſion.

H. Prideaux.

Extract

Extract of a Letter from the Reverend Dr. Samuel Liſle, *Fellow of* Wadham *College in* Oxford, *and ſometime Chaplain to the Honourable* Turkey *Company at* Aleppo, *dated* May 26. 1720. *To the Secretary of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

HAving been abſent a Month from *Oxford*, on my Return Home I found your Letter of the 3*d* Inſtant, together with a Propoſal about publiſhing a new Edition of the New Teſtament in *Arabick*, of which you inform me, that the *Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge* deſire my Opinion.

THE Uſefulneſs of ſuch a Work will be evident from conſidering the great Numbers of Chriſtians who uſe this Language, and the very mean Tranſlation which is at preſent in their Hands; all which is ſo fully ſet out in Mr. *Negri*'s Propoſal, that I have nothing to add to it, unleſs, by Way of corroborating his Evidence, to obſerve to you: That as all the Natives of the *Turkiſh* Empire, South of *M. Amanus*, of whatſoever Religion or Rite they are, ſpeak the *Arabick* as their Mother Tongue; ſo this Language is become ſo univerſal, that even the *Greek* Clergy themſelves in *Syria* and *Paleſtine*, (ſome of the Biſhops excepted, who were born and educated

educated on the Coaſt of *Aſia minor*, or in *Europe*) underſtand no other Language, having quite loſt the *Greek*; ſo that they for the moſt Part read the Scripture, and the Offices of the Church, in *Arabick*. And the Chriſtians in *Aleppo* only, are reckon'd to be no leſs than Fifteen Thouſand of the *Greek* Church, beſide thoſe of other Communions; and in every conſiderable City of *Syria* their Numbers are proportionable.

It being neceſſary therefore that theſe People ſhould have the Scripture in *Arabick*, if they read it at all; I am very glad that the Society have taken it into their Conſideration to aſſiſt their Chriſtian Brethren in the Performance of ſo neceſſary a Duty. For, without ſome ſuch Aſſiſtance, I ſcarce ſee how 'tis poſſible for them to have the Scripture in their Hands. I need not go about to repreſent the miſerable Circumſtances of the *Eaſtern* Chriſtians, and the Weight of the Infidel Yoke under which they groan; the World already knows their State too well, to need any Information from me. It will be ſufficient to ſay, that the Poverty of the Chriſtians in the *Eaſt*, and the Difficulty of Procuring Copies of the Scriptures in that Country, where Printing is not in Uſe, do both unhappily concur to keep thoſe People without any Knowledge of the Scriptures, but as they now and then hear ſome few Portions of them read in their Churches. And I will leave you, Sir, to judge, what Ignorance, and Corruptions, and Superſtitions, are like to follow upon ſuch a Want. And theſe Difficulties are really

really ſo great, that the preſent Patriarch at *Aleppo*, (a Perſon never to be named without Honour) endeavouring to relieve, as much as in him lay, theſe Neceſſities of his People, did formerly procure a Printing Preſs from *Europe*, which he erected in his own Houſe, and began to print Copies of their Liturgy: But it ſoon appeared that this was a Work of too much Expence and Burthen, even for the Magnanimity of this extraordinary Perſon to ſupport it; inſomuch that he was forced to deſiſt from that Undertaking: And as the Preſs has lain ſtill for ſome Years; ſo it does not ſeem to me ever likely to be ſet on Work again; and the People muſt ever continue without the Uſe of the Scriptures, unleſs they are reliev'd by ſome ſuch Method as is now propoſed to the Society; and upon which, I beſeech GOD to beſtow his Bleſſing. I have ſaid ſo much in another Place about the Method of Executing this Propoſal, that I will not add any Thing to it here.

An Extract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Edmund Chiſhul *at* Waltham-Stow, *ſometime Chaplain to the Honourable* Turkey *Company at* Smyrna, *dated* May 28. 1720. *To a Member of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

IN Anſwer to the Enquiry you are pleaſed to make concerning the Subject of Mr. *Negri*'s Letter, my Opinion as well as my Wiſhes are entirely the ſame with his: He has very truly ſet forth the Numbers of Oriental Chriſtians uſing the *Arabick* Tongue, their unhappy Darkneſs for Want of Copies of the New Teſtament, and that abſolute Inability they are under, either to print themſelves, or to purchaſe an Impreſſion elſewhere.

IT would therefore be an Act highly worthy the Care and Piety of the Society, if where the *Alcoran* reigns in *Arabick*, the Goſpel, by their Charity, might be ſpread in the ſame Language.

THE Method of diſperſing it from *Aleppo*, is very rightly projected by Mr. *Negri*; and as to the Manner of Printing it here, I preſume to ſuggeſt no further, than that it be done from the moſt approv'd Verſion, upon good Paper, with exact Corrections of the Preſs, and without any Manner of Preface, or Recommendation: which laſt Circumſtance is neceſſary for its being received readily by the Chriſtians of the *Eaſt*.

An Extract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. George Lewis, *who was ſeveral Years Chaplain to the Honourable* Eaſt-India *Company at* Fort-St. George *in the* Eaſt-Indies, *dated* July 18. 1720. *To the Secretary of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

BEING inform'd that the Society have ſome Thoughts of Reprinting the New Teſtament in the *Arabick* Language, and being likewiſe deſired to give my Sentiments of that Undertaking, in Compliance therewith, I think I may affirm for Truth, that in the *Eaſtern* Parts of the *Turkiſh* Dominions, *viz.* from *Damaſcus* in *Syria*, to the Confines of *Perſia*, there are great Numbers of Chriſtians, whoſe Native Language is *Arabick*: Many of the Inhabitants of thoſe great Cities, *Moſul* [or *Nineveh*], *Baghdad* [or *Babylon*], and *Baſſora* on the *Euphrates*, profeſſing Chriſtianity, and all ſpeaking *Arabick*. I may likewiſe obſerve, that, in all thoſe Countries, the Art of Printing is either not known, or elſe not put in Practice; and the Books they have being all Manuſcripts, muſt conſequently be very dear: And therefore the diſtributing a large Quantity of Teſtaments in *Arabick* among thoſe *Eaſtern* Chriſtians, who are generally poor, muſt be a ſignal Benefit.

As

As to the *Mahometans*, (tho' I cannot promiſe much from them) nevertheleſs if ſome Copies of this Edition happen to fall into the Hands of the Learned among them, they may conceive better Thoughts of the Chriſtian Religion than now they have.

And I judge this a proper Seaſon to ſet this Work on Foot, while Mr. *Negri* is in *England*, whoſe Skill in the Oriental Languages is well known, eſpecially in the *Arabick*, which, as a Native of *Damaſcus*, is his Mother Tongue, and of which, having been a Profeſſor in Places of Note for a great Part of his Life, he muſt be eſteemed a compleat Maſter, and therefore no Perſon that I know of, fitter to have the Care of this Edition, whenever it ſhall be undertaken.

An Extract of a Letter from the Reverend Mr. Gennadius, *Archimandrite [or Abbot], Superior of the Convent of* Greeks *at* Alexandria *in* Egypt, *and Chaplain to His Czariſh Majeſty's Reſident and Subjects at* London, *dated* October 7. 1720. *To a Member of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

I HAVE been informed by a Friend, That there are ſeveral worthy Perſons of your Acquaintance here in *London*, who deſign to Print the New Teſtament and Pſalter in *Arabick*, to be diſtributed among the Chriſtians who ſpeak that Language in the *Levant*; as your Friends in *Germany* have ſome Years ſince printed the New Teſtament in the Ancient and Modern *Greek*, for the Benefit of the *Grecians*.

I can't expreſs to you the Joy which I felt, when I heard that ſuch a Deſign was beginning to be put in Execution.

IN Truth, SIR, it will be a noble Benefaction to all the poor Chriſtians of every Nation, that groan under the Oppreſſion of the Infidel *Hagarenes*, of which I have been an Eye-witneſs, having been educated in *Egypt*, where I have been about 20 Years Superior of the Convent at *Alexandria*.

I know

I know for certain, That at *Grand Cairo*, and in all the Towns which are under the Juriſdiction of the Patriarch of *Alexandria*, all the Chriſtians born in that Country ſpeak no other Language; and at their Publick Worſhip, they read the Epiſtle and Goſpel, and other Parts of Divine Service, in *Arabick*; and only Part of it is ſaid in *Greek*. They ſpeak *Arabick* in all the Countries from *Egypt* through *Gaza* and *Jeruſalem*, to *Nablos* or *Samaria*; and in all the Country of *Syria*, as *Damaſcus*, *Tripoly*, *Mount Lebanon*, *Beelbeck*, (or the ancient *Heliopolis*) *Antioch*, and all the Countrey round, till you come to *Euphrates*; all the Inhabitants of thoſe vaſt Countries generally ſpeak no other Language than the *Arabick*.

THIS makes me believe, that ſuch a Preſent cannot fail of being very acceptable, conſidering that they have as much need of it, as we had of your Charity of the New Teſtament in *Greek*; and we think our ſelves obliged, every Time we read it, to pray to God, that the Benefactors, who preſented us with that Edition, may be worthy of his Kingdom.

I doubt not but the *Arabian* Chriſtians will be in the ſame Diſpoſition, when they ſhall receive ſuch a Preſent, as will occaſion to them an inexpreſſible Joy; ſince it is not in their Power to be at the Expence of Buying very dear Manuſcripts; nor have they the Privilege of the Art of Printing.

THESE Things are all ſo well known to you, that I need ſay no more, but only to pray, that GOD Almighty would give thoſe Gentlemen abovementioned the Power to execute what they have purpoſed, for the Glory of our Lord JESUS CHRIST; and that He would render us all worthy of his Kingdom. *Amen.*

I am entirely at the Service of
Your Reverence,

Gennadius,

Archimandrite of *Alexandria*, &c.

Tranſlated from the *Greek* by me *Bartholomew Caſſanno*, Nephew of the ſaid Archimandrite.

A Letter from the Reverend and Honourable Dr. Brydges, *Archdeacon of* Rocheſter, *and ſome time Chaplain to the Honourable* Turkey *Company at* Aleppo; *To the Secretary of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

I AM very glad the Society have got over the Objection that was ſtarted in relation to an Edition of the New Teſtament and Pſalter in *Arabick*; which, if I miſtake not, was founded upon a Suggeſtion, that it would be of little or no Uſe to the Inhabitants of *Paleſtine*, and thoſe Countries for whoſe Inſtruction it was chiefly intended, few (if any) of the common People being able to read *Arabick*.

I aſſure you, SIR, that when I liv'd in thoſe Parts, there were publick Schools not only at *Aleppo*, *Antioch*, *Damaſcus*, *Tripoly*, *Sidon*, *Jeruſalem*, &c. but in moſt of the conſiderable Villages thereabouts, where Children were taught both to read and write *Arabick*; and I don't doubt but there are ſo ſtill:

And the earneſt Deſire thoſe poor People have expreſſed for a new Edition of the Scriptures in their Language, makes me think there would have been no Colour for that Objection, if this charitable Deſign had taken Effect ſome Years ago.

Dover-ſtreet,
Nov. 28. 1720.

H. Brydges.

A Letter from the Reverend Dr. Samuel Liſle, *Fellow of* Wadham-College *in* Oxford, *and ſome time Chaplain to the Honourable* Turkey *Company at* Aleppo; *To the Secretary of the Society for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge.*

SIR,

I HAVE the Honour to concur with Dr. *Brydges* in the Teſtimony he has given concerning the Eſtabliſhment of Schools in thoſe Countries, for whoſe Benefit the Edition of the New Teſtament and Pſalter is intended.

GOD

GOD be praiſed, the Chriſtian Clergy in thoſe Parts have not ſo abandoned the Care of their Flocks, as not to teach them to read: And if they ſhould, of themſelves, have been diſpoſed to ſo much Negligence; yet the very Example of the *Mahometans*, who every where take this Care of their Youth, would admoniſh them of their Duty in this Reſpect: And as the Society very well know, that the *Tenth* Canon of the ſecond *Nicene* Synod (which the *Greeks* eſteem as a General Council) declares it to be the Duty of ſome of the Clergy to teach Schools, telling them, that *They received the Office of Prieſthood for this Purpoſe:* So I aſſure you, as a Matter of my own Knowledge, that in all the Cities where I have been able to make any Obſervations, ſome or other of the Clergy are appointed to teach Children to read; and I have heard the ſame of the other Cities where I have never been; which I think I have Reaſon to believe, becauſe I am ſure Schools are taught even in conſiderable Villages.

AND though (after all) I do not preſume to ſay, that Reading is ſo common in the *Eaſt*, as it is in *England*; yet I think I may venture to aſſure the Society, that neither they, nor any one elſe, ought to have any Doubt that there are vaſtly greater Numbers of Chriſtians in the *Eaſt*, who

who are both able and desirous to read the New Testament in *Arabick*, than they will be able to supply with Books.

St. *Paul's* Church-Yard,
Novemb. 29. 1720.

Sam. Lisle.

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PROPOSAL

For Printing the

New Teſtament and *Pſalter*

IN

ARABICK.

THE *Society* (at *LONDON*) *for Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge* having conſidered the Great Charity and Uſefulneſs of Printing the *New-Teſtament* and *Pſalter* in *Arabick*, for the Benefit of the poor Chriſtians of the *Eaſtern* Nations in *Paleſtine*, *Syria*, *Meſopotamia*, *Arabia*, and *Egypt*; out of Gratitude to GOD for the ineſtimable Happineſs enjoy'd by the *Britiſh* Nation, in having the Holy Scriptures in common Uſe among them, and for the Regard due to the Poſterity of thoſe, to whom the Sacred Oracles were at firſt committed; have agreed to print the *New-Teſtament* and *Pſalter* in *Arabick*, for the Benefit of the ſaid Chriſtians, as ſoon as they

ſhall

ſhall be enabled thereunto by the charitable Contributions of their Members, and other well diſpoſed Perſons: And, in order to it, have deſired the Perſons hereafter mentioned, to receive ſuch Benefactions as may come to their Hands for that Purpoſe.

Bartholomew *Beale*, Eſq; at *Heathouſe* near *Ludlow* in *Shropſhire*.

The Revd Mr. *Arthur Bedford*, Chaplain at *Ask*'s Hoſpital, *London*.

John *Bennet*, Eſq; in *Chancery-Lane*.

The Revd Mr. Archdeacon *Benſon*, in *Albemarle-Street*.

The Revd and Hon. Dr. *Brydges*, Archdeacon of *Rocheſter*, in *Dover-ſtreet*.

The Revd Mr. *Denne*, Vicar of St. *Leonard*'s *Shoreditch*.

Sir *Daniel* *Dolins*, Knt. at *Hackney*.

Thomas *Greene*, Eſq; at *Kenſington*.

The Revd Mr. Dean *Harris*, Clerk of the Cloſet to his Royal Highneſs the Prince of *Wales*.

Benjamin *Hoare*, Eſq; in *Fleet-ſtreet*.

Robert *Holford*, Eſq; in *Bedford-row*.

Edward *Jennings*, Eſq; in *Little Lincolns-Inn-Fields*.

The Revd Dr. *King*, Maſter of the *Charter-Houſe*.

The Revd Mr. *King*, at *Topſham* in *Devonſhire*.

The Revd Dr. *Liſle*, Chaplain to His Grace the Lord Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*.

Henry *Lovibond*, Eſq; in *Little-Lincolns-Inn-Fields*.

The Revd Dr. *Mayo*, at St. *Thomas*'s-*Hoſpital* in *Southwark*.

John *Meller*, Eſq; in *Bloomsbury-Square*.

The Revd Dr. *Pearce*, Vicar of St. *Martins* in the *Fields*.

Sir *John* *Philipps*, Bart. in *Bartlet*'s-*Buildings*, *Holborn*.

The Revd Mr. *Soley*, Chaplain to the Ld. Biſhop of *Wincheſter*.

The Revd Dr. *Stanley*, Dean of St. *Aſaph*, at *Amen Corner*.

Mr. Archdeacon *Teniſon*, Prebendary of *Canterbury*.

Mr. *Lewis* *Thomas*, Merchant on *Tower Hill*, *London*.

William *Tillard*, Eſq; at *Bridgwater-Square*.

The Revd Dr. *Wilkins*, Chaplain to His Grace the Lord Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury*.

Robert *Witham*, Eſq; Treaſurer of St. *Bartholomew*'s *Hoſpital*.

The Revd Mr. *Ziegenhagen*, Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majeſty's *German* Chappel.

Poſtſcript.

26 May, 1725.

THE Society for *Promoting Chriſtian Knowledge*, in Purſuance of the foregoing Propoſal, printed 1721, have collected about a thouſand Pound; by which Means, they have been enabled to procure

2 NEW Fonts of *Arabick* Types, *viz.*
ONE from the *Polyglott* Matrices;
ANOTHER of a leſſer Size, called an *Engliſh-Body*, made on Purpoſe for this Service; And

6250 Pſalters printed from a Copy, ſent from *Aleppo*, as approved by the Patriarch of *Antioch*; of which 2025 were bound, and ſent by the laſt *Turkey* Fleet to *Scanderoon*.

THE Society are now taking Meaſures for putting the New Teſtament into the Preſs, as ſoon as a Judgment can be made, what Fund can be depended on; it being neceſſary to print off as many Copies of the firſt, as

of

of the laſt Sheet, and this is likewiſe to be printed from a Copy ſent from *Aleppo*, approv'd by the Patriarch of *Antioch*.

In Regard, therefore, that this Impreſſion is undertaken for furniſhing the *Eaſtern* Chriſtians with the Goſpel, upon the Reaſons given in the foregoing Letters; and that the ſame is approved by both the Archbiſhops, and all the other Biſhops of the Kingdom, who were at *London*, when their Lordſhips ſign'd the Recommendation hereto prefixed; it is hoped, ſo Chriſtian a Deſign will not want Encouragement in a Proteſtant wealthy Countrey; and that the Giver of all Good will bountifully reward thoſe, who ſhall have any Share in promoting a Work ſo much tending to his Glory, and the eternal Welfare of our Chriſtian Brethren of the *Eaſtern* Nations.

FINIS.

BRITISH MUSEUM